WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Impact of Open Sky accord with US on airfares

2161. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an open sky accord has lately been signed and enforced with the US;

(b) if so, the precise impact of this accord on the civil aviation relations between the two countries in terms of increase and mutual growth of aviation traffic; and

(c) how far air tariff between the two countries has been reduced as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) India and USA have initialled a more liberal revised Air Services Agreement in January, 2005. This agreement is expected to usher in greater air connectivity between the two countries by removing all constraints for operations on India-USA route. However, since this agreement has been initialled very recently, it is too early to estimate the precise impact of this accord on air traffic. Tariffs on India-USA route are also likely to come down in due course because of greater connectivity and competitions.

Restoration of air services to Jabalpur

†2162. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have discontinued the air service facility for Jabalpur;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of action Government are going to take to reconnect Jabalpur with air service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Earlier Indian Airlines was

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.